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Contact: Zachary Burton
Email: zburton@westfield.in.gov
Office: 317-804-3004
Cell: 317-617-8524

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Eagle Scout Project Brings 'Little Free Libraries' to Westfield

Westfield, IN- Westfield's public parks will soon become a place where residents can mix outdoor recreation with reading, thanks to a local Eagle Scout project.

Patrick Hester, Westfield resident and Scout, worked with a group of fellow Scouts and the Westfield Parks Department to build four Little Free Libraries throughout Westfield after his grandmother told him about similar projects in other communities.

"I like the idea of people spending time at the libraries, meeting and talking," Hester said. "We do too much on our phones and electronics."

The libraries are located at the Downtown Westfield Association, Asa Bales Park, Bed and Biscuit Kennels and the Monon trailhead at Greyhound Pass. The goal is simple: people are free to take a book, as long as they leave a book for someone else to read.

The total cost of building the libraries was about \$1,600, with funding being donated by family, friends and neighbors. The rest of the cost Hester made up for by working summers at Conner Prairie, where he pulled wagons for guests of the Symphony on the Prairie series.

Over 750 books were donated to initially stock the libraries. Half of the books located at Asa Bales Park are in Spanish.

For all of his work, Hester still sees this as a community initiative. "I would like to thank all the generous supporters of this project and the members of my Boy Scout Troop 107 for all the help building the libraries and installing them," he said.

According to the parent organization, as of January 2014, the total number of registered Little Free Libraries worldwide was conservatively estimated at around 15,000. For more information on this and other Little Free Libraries projects, visit www.littlefreelibrary.org.



A Little Free Library, located at the Downtown Westfield Association (211 S Union Street)

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